

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 were pending in the application before this amendment. In this amendment, claims 1, 3, 4 and 19 have been amended and claim 2 has been cancelled. No claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-49 are now pending in the application.

Rejection under 35 USC § 112

In the Office Action mailed June 04, 2007, the Examiner rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for insufficient antecedent basis for the “the unauthorized configuration task”. Applicant has amended claim 19 to replace “unauthorized” with --non-autonomous-- and respectfully submits that claim 19 meets the requirements of 35 USC § 112.

Rejection under 35 USC § 102(e)

In the Office Action mailed June 04, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Reichmeyer, US Pat. No. 6,286,038 (“Reichmeyer”). Applicant respectfully submits that Reichmeyer does not disclose all of the limitations of any one of claims 1 or 3-49 and that these claims are allowable.

Claims 1 and 3-14

As amended, claim 1 recites a method comprising “identifying, based on a user-defined autonomy criteria, a non-autonomous configuration task of a plurality of configuration tasks of an autonomy-based configuration procedure.” Applicant respectfully submits that Reichmeyer does not discuss or show this feature. Reichmeyer teaches to configure devices with the generation of configuration information which is either fully manual, fully automatically, or partially manual and partially automatic. (Col. 10, Lines 28-32). The generating of configuration information does not include user defined autonomy criteria on which an identification of a non-autonomous configuration task can be based. In Reichmeyer, a system administrator provides the actual configuration parameters and does not provide user defined autonomy criteria for identifying configuration tasks that are non-autonomous tasks. The system administrator is manually prompted for additional configuration parameters when required in addition to the default parameters. The system does not use user defined autonomy criteria to determine whether a particular task should be performed autonomously or non-autonomously. For example, a task that requires user input in Reichmeyer can not be changed to a task that does

not require user input. There is no criterion that dictates whether a task is non-autonomous. When rejecting claims 2-5, the Examiner indicates that the claimed “autonomy criteria” reads on the “parameters” in Reichmeyer. (See Office Action dated June 04, 2007, Page 3, Line 3.) Applicant respectfully submits that parameters discussed in Reichmeyer are significantly different from the claimed autonomy criteria. The parameters do not indicate whether a task should be performed autonomously or non-autonomously. Although the generating the configuration information in Reichmeyer may be fully manual, fully automatic, or partially automatic and partially manual, the parameters provided by the administrator do not change whether the generation is automatic or manual. The parameters are simply values used for the configuration.

Claim 1 further recites “refraining from executing the non-autonomous configuration task until authorization is received”. Applicant respectfully submits that Reichmeyer does show or discuss this feature. Reichmeyer discusses receiving parameters and does not discuss receiving authorization. There is no suggestion that a parameter could be an authorization to execute a non-autonomous task. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that all of the limitations are not shown in Reichmeyer and that claim 1 is allowable.

Regarding claims 3-14, these claims depend from claim 1 which applicant submits is allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-14 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from an allowable base claim.

Independent Claims 15, 19, 20, 24, 42 and 46

Claims 15, 19, 20, and 42 recite “identifying the at least one non-autonomous configuration task by applying the autonomy criteria to each configuration task of an autonomy-based configuration procedure for configuring a distributed computer system”. Applicant respectfully submits that Reichmeyer does not discuss or show this feature. Reichmeyer discusses a configuration procedure that may be either automatic or manual or partially automatic and manual but does not suggest that a non-autonomous configuration task is identified by applying autonomy criteria to each task. Each task either does or does not require input from administrator. The tasks are not evaluated by applying autonomy criteria to each configuration task. The Examiner cited to the Abstract and FIG. 3 for support that limitation is shown in Reichmeyer. After careful examination of these sections, however, it is clear that autonomy criteria is not applied to any configuration tasks to identify at least one non-

autonomous configuration task. The Abstract discusses configuring a network device by generating configuration information at a central configuration server. Nothing in this section, however suggests that autonomy criteria is used. FIG. 3 shows an exchange of configuration information but does not show the application of autonomy criteria.

Claims 15, 19, 20, 24, 42 and 46 further recite “requesting authorization for executing the at least one configuration task”. Applicant respectfully submits that Reichmeyer does not discuss or show this feature. Reichmeyer discusses requesting parameters but there is no indication that any of the parameters indicate authorization to execute a configuration task.

Claims 15, 19, 20, 24, 42, and 46 further recite “refraining from executing the non-autonomous configuration task until authorization is received from an administrator”. Applicant respectfully submits that Reichmeyer does not discuss or show this feature. As discussed above, Reichmeyer does not discuss receiving authorization from an administrator.

Claim 19 further recites “receiving autonomy criteria entered by an administrator through a user interface”. Applicant respectfully submits that Reichmeyer does not discuss or show this feature. As discussed above, Reichmeyer teaches to receive configuration parameters and not autonomy criteria. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that these limitations are not shown in Reichmeyer and that claims 15, 19, 20, 24, 42 and 46 are allowable.

Claim 28

Claim 28 recites “refraining from executing a non-autonomous configuration task of a plurality of configuration tasks of an autonomy-based configuration procedure until authorization is received”. Applicant respectfully submits that Reichmeyer does not discuss or show this feature. As discussed above, Reichmeyer does not discuss receiving authorization from an administrator.

Claims 16-18, 21-23, 25-27, 29-41, 43-45, and 47-49

Regarding claims 16-18, 21-23, 25-27, 29-41, 43-45, and 47-49, these claims depend from claim one of claims 15, 19, 20, 24, 28, 42 or 46 which applicant submits are allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claims 16-18, 21-23, 25-27, 29-41, 43-45, and 47-49 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from an allowable base claim.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

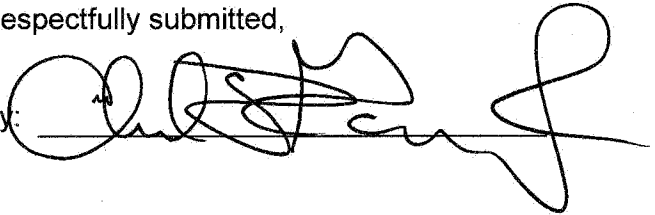
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By:



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